

What is Claimed is:

1. A sanitary napkin comprising a fluid permeable topsheet, a fluid permeable backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed therebetween, wherein,
  - a. said absorbent core comprises relatively hydrophilic material defining a core outer periphery;
  - b. said topsheet and said backsheet comprise relatively hydrophobic nonwoven material, at least one of said topsheet and said backsheet defining a sanitary napkin outer periphery that is substantially larger than said core outer periphery, the area between said core outer periphery and said sanitary napkin outer periphery being a breathable zone;
  - c. said sanitary napkin further comprising a fluid impermeable barrier between said backsheet and said absorbent core, said fluid impermeable barrier being disposed within said core outer periphery.
2. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said topsheet and said backsheet has sufficient hydrophobicity as to be rendered fluid repellent.
3. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said topsheet and said backsheet have a common outer periphery.
4. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein the periphery of said fluid impermeable layer coincides with said core outer periphery.
5. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said topsheet and said core are joined by mechanical entangling of a portion of their respective fibers.
6. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said core outer periphery defines a generally oval shape.
7. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said sanitary napkin periphery defines a generally hour-glass shape.
8. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said fluid impermeable barrier is a polymer film layer.
9. The sanitary napkin of Claim 8, wherein said topsheet and said absorbent core are embossed to expose and entangle fibers from said core with said topsheet.

10. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said topsheet comprises a spunbonded nonwoven web.
11. The sanitary napkin of Claim 10, wherein said topsheet comprises bicomponent fibers.
12. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said backsheet comprises a spunbonded nonwoven web.
13. The sanitary napkin of Claim 12, wherein said backsheet comprises polypropylene fibers.
14. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said absorbent core comprises superabsorbent material.
15. The sanitary napkin of Claim 15, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises superabsorbent fibers.
16. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said core comprises a carded airlaid web.
17. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said sanitary napkin is a pantiliner.
18. A sanitary napkin comprising a fluid permeable topsheet, a fluid permeable backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed therebetween, wherein,
  - a. said absorbent core comprises relatively hydrophilic airlaid nonwoven material having fibrous AGM and defining a core outer periphery;
  - b. said topsheet and said backsheet comprise relatively hydrophobic spunbonded nonwoven material, said topsheet and said backsheet defining a sanitary napkin outer periphery that is larger than said core outer periphery, the area between said core outer periphery and said sanitary napkin outer periphery being a breathable zone that completely surrounds the core outer periphery, such that vapors can permeate completely through said sanitary napkin in said breathable zone;
  - c. said sanitary napkin further comprising a fluid impermeable barrier between said backsheet and said absorbent core, said fluid impermeable barrier being disposed adjacent to said absorbent core and within said core outer periphery.
19. The sanitary napkin of Claim 1, wherein said sanitary napkin is a pantiliner.
20. A thin absorbent pantiliner comprising a fluid permeable topsheet, a fluid permeable backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed therebetween, wherein,

- a. said absorbent core has a basis weight of between about 50 gsm and 100 gsm, said absorbent core comprising relatively hydrophilic airlaid nonwoven material having at least about 5 wt % AGM fiber content and defining a core outer periphery;
- b. said topsheet and said backsheet comprise relatively hydrophobic fluid repellent spunbonded nonwoven material, said topsheet and said backsheet defining a pantiliner outer periphery that is larger than said core outer periphery, the area between said core outer periphery and said pantiliner outer periphery being a breathable zone that completely surrounds the core outer periphery, such that vapors can permeate completely through said pantiliner in said breathable zone;
- c. said sanitary napkin further comprising a liquid impermeable barrier between said backsheet and said absorbent core, said fluid impermeable barrier being a polyethylene film disposed adjacent to said core and within said core outer periphery.